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ITEM NO: NH-? 4                          DATE: 1? FEB 74

SUBJECT:  FRENCH PRESS COMMENT ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE ENERGY

CONFERENCE

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    INITIAL FRENCH MEDIA REACTION TO THE OPENING ROUND OF THE
ENERGY CONFERENCE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FRENCH
AND THE US POSITIONS, BUT GAVE EXTENSIVE AND BALANCED COVERAGE
TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH.

    THE EVENING OFFICIAL TV BROADCAST COMMENTED "EUROPE WILL
RETURN A LITTLE MORE DIVIDED BECAUSE THE EUROPEANS WILL HAVE HAD
TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE US AND FRANCE."

    GAULLIST LA NATION COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE IDEA OF
SHARING BUT DISPARAGED "BLOC-TO-BLOC" DIPLOMACY.

4   L'AURORE, AN ANTI-ARAB PAPER OF THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION
3 WHICH HAS BEEN THE ONLY FRENCH NEWSPAPER TO SUPPORT THE ENERGY
2 CONFERENCE CONSISTENTLY, HEADLINED, "WASHINGTON:  MICHEL JOBERT
1 IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION."   AURORE COLUMNIST VAN DENBESCH

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ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCH POSITION REPRESENTED A CALCULATED RISK

OR WAS MERELY IMPULSIVE AND SAID THAT NOT SINCE DEGAULLE'S

EXPULSION OF AMERICAN FORCES HAS FRANCE RAISED SUCH "BITTER

MISTRUST" AGAINST THE US.

EUROPE ONE RADIO THIS MORNING COMMENTED THAT FRANCE IS MORE

ISOLATED THAN EVER IN WASHINGTON, AND NOT, "AS ONE WOULD HAVE

THOUGHT," BECAUSE OF KISSINGER.  HE SAID IT WAS GERMAN FINANCE

MINISTER SCHMIDT WHO ATTACKED THE POSITION TAKEN BY JOBERT.

LAST NIGHT, SAID THE COMMENTATOR, "ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY SCORED A

POINT AGAINST EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY."

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